

Boston, December 26. 1854.

Dear Mr. Webb -

I will try this morning to make you at least an imperfect reply to your two communications - of Nov. 20th, rec'd. 25<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> Inst. (by private hand to N. York), rec'd. Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>.

And first I will say that our Bazaar has been now 5 days open, & has five remaining. In these first five, the receipts have been \$3000., very encouraging - more so than ever before, I believe, certainly more so than any time the past seven years. Whether we shall continue to do so well remains to be ~~seen~~. At the opening of the Bazaar we had, in addition to all the contributions from our own country, four cases of French articles contributed by Ladies of the Evangelical Churches in Paris, - very beautiful & desirable things they were, - 4 cases collected in Paris by Mrs. Chapman & her friend (2 cases of which, between us, were rendered valueless by the almost complete destruction by breakage of every article in them), one case of very beautiful & attractive things from Stuttgart in Germany, two cases of Swiss fancy articles sent to Mr. Stowe and by her contributed to the Bazaar to aid the Anti-Slavery <sup>Abolition</sup> Fund (for gratuitous distribution), and one case of articles from Baden Baden collected & sent by American residents there. These from the Continent. Then we had one large Case from Bristol, one box from Bradwater, one from Manchester, <sup>and</sup> ~~two~~ from Leeds in England, and two boxes from your beautiful city. These were the whole, and had not the European Continent come so handsomely

to our rescue, we should not have had  
goods enough to cover the tables, in the large new  
rooms we had hired in one of the most central  
and eligible situations in the city. There was nothing  
at all from Scotland, ~~and~~ <sup>all of which we knew to be on the way, had not</sup> The three cases  
from London, the two from Bury, the one from  
Cork, the one from Belfast, ~~and~~ the always  
elegant & valuable collections from Glasgow,  
Edinburgh, & Perth, come to hand. This was  
a sore disappointment to the Managers  
of the Bazaar, and to the great majority of  
the visitors and buyers generally, who have  
become well acquainted with the substantial  
excellence and value, as well as beauty, of the  
~~donations~~ <sup>goods</sup> from those places. The reason of their  
non-arrival you have doubtless already  
conjectured, viz. that your Government took  
possession of the Ship which used to have brought  
them from Liverpool to Boston, and sent her with  
troops to the seat of the War with Russia. So, even  
in an Anti-slavery Bazaar we felt, remately, the  
effects of the War in the East. You will perceive  
therefore that the success of the Bazaar, hitherto,  
is all the more remarkable, because won ~~and~~  
without the help of those donations on which  
~~hitherto~~ the Managers have always greatly  
relied. We are not wholly without hope  
that some of the goods may yet get into the  
Bazaar before it closes, five days hence. The

Our ship America arrived yesterday, containing about half of the expected goods; and if, in the little time that remains, the ship can be unladen, and the goods passed through the Custom house, so as to have even one or two days for their exhibition & sale, ~~then~~ we shall all be much comforted, & the Bazaar greatly aided. The boxes from London, by a great mistake on the part of the Liverpool shipping-agent, were put on board a sailing-vessel (the Trincomalee) which has not arrived, and is not likely to arrive for weeks yet, and therefore they can give no aid to the present Bazaar; but there will be little difficulty in making them helpful to the cause, in other ways.

You have heard of the arrest of our friends Wendell Phillips and Theodore Parker, by the United States Authorities, for their condemnation in Faneuil Hall of the Kidnapping of Anthony Burns. They will doubtless have a magnificent triumph over their prosecutors: the cause will certainly triumph, even if despotism should succeed in fining & imprisoning them. They & their personal friends are not troubled by the prosecution, nor fearful of its results, either to them, or to the cause of Liberty. The course of the U. S. Government in the matter meets with almost unanimous condemnation, even here in conservative, ~~hard-hearted~~ Slave-law-obeying Boston.

I was exceedingly sorry at what you say of the Manchester Conference - its mismanagement pecuniarily, & the debt thrown on the Ladies' Society there. I hoped great results from that meeting, and I still cannot think but that the large amount of plain & bold truths told there will prove good seed sown in man a fertile place. So may it be, - I did not look for any great organization, or any one great visible movement, of which men would say, Lo here or Lo there; but I believed, & still I believe, that it must powerfully tend to enlarge the Kingdom which is within us. And I am all the more sorry that it should have been so conducted, as to entail a debt - always a troublesome thing, and a sad drawback on the satisfaction which would otherwise result.

On the other hand, I was greatly comforted at the abundant assurances you gave, in yours of Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, that there <sup>is</sup> no danger at all that the British friend of the American A.S. Society will get into any entangling alliance with the B. & F. Committee in Broad Street. That is all I feared, that in the simplicity of your hearts (forgive me for thinking you in any danger, but even "the elect" may almost be deceived you would get, in some way, so far committed with, and under engagements to, the Broad Street Committee, that your perfect freedom of action & criticism, towards them in particular, and the conduct of the cause generally, would be impaired. That any of you would become

Sectarian and bitter in spirit & feeling (as  
 our best of friends Mary Estlin seemed to think  
 was my difficulty) - So far from being any source  
 of trouble to me, never once entered my thoughts;  
 nor can I now conceive of it as a possible thing!  
 I suspect our good Mary E. meant to quiz me a little,  
 for being so frightened before I was hurt. I heartily  
 forgive her, if for nothing else, for the excellence of the  
 joke! To think of you, & her father, & of herself, as  
 becoming Sectarian and narrow in feeling! If I  
 kept ~~any~~<sup>a life & health</sup> insurance office, I should feel safe in  
 insuring you all from that malady, for the rest of  
 your natural lives, for a penny. - But I don't  
 want you trammelled; I don't want you even  
 to be under any obligation to <sup>the</sup> Broad St. Committee.  
 Towards Mr. Chamberowzow, I have no such feeling. He  
 thinks, I understand, that we do not judge  
 him by his acts. I believe he is quite mistaken  
 in this - so far as I am concerned, he certainly  
 is. I will not deny that Pillsbury may have  
 been too hard upon him; but I think more  
 step has been given to what P.P. said than  
 was called for. - On the whole, I am pretty  
 sure that a great deal too much has been  
 said on the matter, so far as Mr. Cham<sup>you</sup> is concerned.  
 And I owe you, & the Estlin's, perhaps, an apology  
 for being ever troubled as to the friends of your  
 foot hold; and if I owe it, I pay it with all  
 my heart.

I will only say, in conclusion of this subject, for the present, that I do most heartily agree with you as to the value of a union with the New Broad St. folks, even if it cannot be had, which I also think, with you, cannot be. Possibly all may meet together, now & then, in large & general meetings and pass some cautiously-worded resolutions, not at all what the exigencies of the cause need. But the best way for you to infuse any life into that old association, and ~~the~~<sup>its</sup> kindle again in it any antislavery life, many auxiliaries, is to preserve your own independent position, and fearlessly tell all the antislavery truth you know, and relentlessly expose all unfaithfulness and all dereliction <sup>on the part of churches, sects, parties, & individuals,</sup> of duty, and show the way of salvation from this enormous sin and its consequences. You will ~~then~~<sup>thus</sup> have a power ~~of~~ over the antislavery heart and conscience of your Nation <sup>never</sup> that you can have ~~from~~<sup>in</sup> any other way, and you will be the means of calling out a power that never can be gathered into any mere association. Pardon my speaking so plainly.— I do not mean to assume any right to point out your path, only to state my own convictions.

I have just had an opportunity to glance at George Thompson's newspaper, The Empire. Long may he live & flourish, & greatly succeed in

effort for Humanity and Right.  
And now for a little business:

At your request, I have directed the Liberator for W. S. Poyer to be stopped.

As to Wm. Shortt's payments for the Lib.  
By your acct, rec'd by me April 16. 1854, I find  
that Wm. Shortt paid you, March 1. 1854, 12/6; and  
I also find that this was duly paid to R. D. Wallcut,  
as his books show; but even this only pays up to  
January 1. 1852, as you will see by Mr. Wallcut's  
Statement accompanying this. ~~So you have nothing~~  
~~the £1. which you say, in yours of Nov. 9, that he has since paid to~~  
~~of Mr. Shortt in your hands, unless he has paid~~  
~~you, & which you are to include in next account, will pay up~~  
~~you something since March 1. 1854.~~  
his paper to January 1st. 1854.

The Finance Committee of the Liberator, as you  
will have noticed, are endeavoring to limit the  
credit given for the paper. Hereafter no paper  
will be sent where the subscribers are owing for  
more than a year; but this rule would, I presume,  
not be held applicable strictly to foreign subscribers,  
who cannot remit money easily & often.

As to Mr. Cotterell's subscription, - concerning  
which you say you "do not understand what  
I say about it", - it is simply as follows:

In a letter rec'd from you sometime in ~~Augt~~ <sup>deskt</sup> 1853, ~~you~~ (I have not the letter at hand to refer to its  
date) you mentioned having rec'd. a payment from  
Mr. Cotterell of Bath, & asked me to pay the same  
to Mr. Wallcut. I did so - paying to Mr. ~~Cotterell~~  
Wallcut, for Mr. Cotterell, 26 Aug. 1853, as both an

accounts show, two dollars & a half. I paid this sum, because you had not told me in your letter what you had rec'd. from Mr. C. nor what I was to pay to Mr. W., but only said you had rec'd. a year's subscription; as therefore I paid \$2.50, the regular subscription. Four months later, viz. Dec. 16, 1853, I received your account in full for the year, and there I found  $12\frac{1}{6}$  (or \$3.) set down as rec'd by you from Mr. Cottrell. Without looking carefully enough into the matter, & comparing the account with your letter rec'd. in August, I concluded that this was a 2<sup>d</sup> payment of Mr. Cottrell's, and accordingly paid Mr. Wallcut \$3. in addition to the \$2.50 previously paid. I have therefore paid, for Mr. Cottrell, \$5.50, when I should have paid \$3. only, thus leaving \$2.50 due to me, which I have not received from you, nor any one, and am content to wait (having made the blunder) until Mr. Cottrell has paid his 2<sup>d</sup> year subscription to you. — Mr. Wallcut, as the matter stands, retains the \$5.50 as from Cottrell; so when you receive his 2<sup>d</sup>  $12\frac{1}{6}$  (or \$3.) I will pay myself  $10\frac{1}{6}$  (or \$2.50), & to R. F. W. 2 shillings (or 50cts), thus making it all square. — You will see that R. F. W. credits Mr. Cottrell to Jan. 1. 1855.

I also send such a statement, from Mr. Wallcut, of the state of the accounts of the ~~second~~ Liberator subscriber in England & Ireland, as you expressed a wish to have.

In great haste & great regard, sincerely yours, S. May